

EXHIBIT 2: Letters of Support



January 21, 2004

Paul Morabito, Chairman
State Coastal Conservancy
1330 Broadway, 11th Floor
Oakland, CA 94612

Re: Coastal Fishery Habitat Inventory - Support

Dear Chairman Morabito:

Please accept California Trout's strong support for the proposed Coastal Fishery Habitat Inventory. California Trout is a non-profit conservation organization of more than 5,000 members statewide. Our mission is to protect and restore wild trout, native steelhead, and the habitat they live in.

This authorization will enable Center for Ecosystem Management and Restoration ("CEMAR") to compile and make readily accessible for public review information critical to the strategic development of habitat improvement projects. Doing so will help CEMAR and its partners like California Trout precisely target and initiate the improvement of habitat and fish passage in streams where land use practices have degraded habitat beyond its ability to support native anadromous salmonid populations at sustainable levels. It will also help those who are providing support funds, such as the Conservancy, and the California Department of Fish and Game's Citizen Advisory Committee to the California Legislature on Salmon and Steelhead, upon which California Trout is represented, make better informed choices of potential restoration projects suitable for funding.

Much historic and current habitat data exists, but is stored in hard copy frequently in home or regional offices of the California Department of Fish and Game ("DFG") or other local or State agencies. Despite the willingness of public agency staff to collaborate and share this data, staff resources and format of the data preclude the practical exchange of information between sister agencies or the general public. Moreover, accessible information is not archived in a fashion that ensures future availability.

Significant investments in the recovery of salmon and steelhead populations have been made by public and private organizations, often with great benefit to natural resources, but these investments would be better informed and of greater potential benefit to natural

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resources if based on historic and current stream habitat data, including inventories of barriers to fish passage and habitat conditions.

Thank you for your consideration of our support.

Sincerely,

CALIFORNIA TROUT, INC.

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Jim Edmondson". The signature is written in a cursive style with a horizontal line extending to the left.

Jim Edmondson

Southern California Manager

EXHIBIT 2: Letters of Support

January 27, 2004

Board of the California Coastal Conservancy
11th Floor, 1330 Broadway
Oakland, CA 94612

Re: Compendium of Documents Produced by the California Department of Fish and Game

To Whom It May Concern:

The Midpeninsula Regional Open Space District (MROSD) acquires and preserves land within San Mateo, Santa Clara, and Santa Cruz Counties. Many of the lands held by the MROSD are located in the coastal watersheds of San Mateo County. Recently MROSD received a digital copy of the Compendium of Documents Produced by the California Department of Fish and Game for Coastal San Mateo County compiled by Robert Zatzkin, Geologist. The comprehensive and easy-to-use Compendium will serve as an important research tool to support our land protection efforts in these coastal watersheds and throughout the Coastsides Protection Area of San Mateo County.

It has been brought to my attention that the Board of the California Coastal Conservancy is considering funding a project that will result in the production of a similar compendium for all coastal counties south of the Golden Gate to the U.S./Mexican border. I believe such an expanded compendium will prove to be a very valuable resource for other public land management entities and interested citizens in all coastal California counties south of the Golden Gate. As such, I heartedly endorse the proposed project and recommend that you provide the funds necessary to expand on the coastal San Mateo County compendium.

Sincerely,

L. Craig Britton
General Manager



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
NATIONAL MARINE FISHERIES SERVICE
Southwest Region
777 Sonoma Avenue, Room 325
Santa Rosa, California 95409

January 28, 2004 F/SWR03:JMA

California Coastal Conservancy
Attn: Paul Morabito, Chair
1330 Broadway, 11th Floor
Oakland, California 94612

Dear Mr. Morabito:

This letter is in regards to the proposal by the California Coastal Conservancy staff to disburse up to \$250,000 to the Center for Ecosystem Restoration and Management (CEMAR) to prepare the Central and South Coast Fishery Habitat Inventory. CEMAR plans to prepare a digital database of existing information pertaining to stream habitat conditions, presence of barriers to fish passage, and other data sources important for fishery conservation and management. The National Marine Fisheries Service (NOAA Fisheries) encourages the California Coastal Conservancy to fully consider this application as we believe it will significantly enhance recovery opportunities and effective management for Federally listed salmonids throughout the central and south coast regions of California.

The watercourses of central and southern California support populations of Central California Coast (CCC) Evolutionarily Significant Unit (ESU) steelhead (*Oncorhynchus mykiss*), South-Central California Coast ESU steelhead (S-CCC), Southern California (SC) ESU steelhead, and CCC ESU coho salmon (*Oncorhynchus kisutch*). SC ESU steelhead are listed as an endangered species pursuant to the Federal Endangered Species Act (ESA). S-CCC ESU steelhead, CCC ESU steelhead, and CCC ESU coho salmon are listed as threatened species pursuant to the Federal ESA. All four ESUs fall under the regulatory jurisdiction of NOAA Fisheries. Additionally, coho salmon south of the San Francisco Bay are listed as endangered by the State of California.

A similar effort at historic information compilation was recently undertaken by members of CEMAR for coastal San Mateo county. This effort resulted in a 13-volume compendium regarding historic information for streams in the county. The information in the San Mateo County compendium and the overall quality of the final product were outstanding. Information in the San Mateo County compendium, which previously was all but inaccessible, has facilitated a better understanding of watercourses in this County and thus, more effective management by NOAA Fisheries. We believe CEMAR has the staff and expertise to produce quality documents similar to the San Mateo County compendium for counties in the central and south coast regions. NOAA Fisheries has proposed to finance \$10,000 of the proposed project cost.



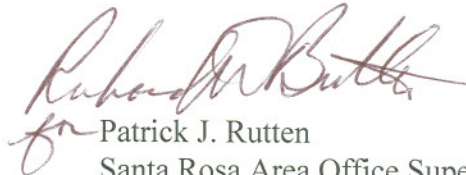
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NOAA Fisheries believes compilation of this existing information is essential. Currently, much historic and current habitat data exist, however it is typically stored in hard copy and is frequently very difficult to access. These data are often not centralized, rather they are stored in home or regional offices of the California Department of Fish and Game or other State and local agencies. With the passage of time, accessing these data becomes more problematic as employees retire and State and local budgets are reduced and priorities change. Despite the willingness of public agency staff to collaborate and share these data, staff resources and the format of the existing information preclude practical and efficient exchanges of information. We believe the proposed Coastal Fishery Habitat Inventory will bridge the gap between existing information and availability, thus promoting effective management decisions for listed salmonids.

NOAA Fisheries strongly supports the proposal to disburse up to \$250,000 to the Center for Ecosystem Restoration and Management to prepare the Central and South Coast Fishery Habitat Inventory. Thank you for your consideration in this matter.

Sincerely,



Patrick J. Rutten
Santa Rosa Area Office Supervisor
Protected Resources Division

cc: Jim Lecky, NOAA Fisheries, Long Beach, California
Michael Bowen, California Coastal Conservancy

RECEIVED

JAN 30 2004

COASTAL CONSERVANCY
OAKLAND, CALIF.